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Letter dated 25 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to yet another terrorist murder which occurred this week near the Palestinian-controlled town of Tulkarm.

Shortly after noon Wednesday, 23 January 2001, Motti Dayan and Etgar Zeitouny, co-owners of a popular Tel-Aviv restaurant, set out for the town of Tulkarm in order to purchase items for their business. Reports indicate that Dayan and Zeitouny, accompanied by an Israeli Arab friend, Fuwaz Abu Hussein, stopped for lunch at the Abu Nidal Restaurant on the outskirts of the Palestinian-controlled town. A short time later, Palestinian gunmen arrived and dragged the three out of the restaurant and drove them toward the villages of Iktaba and Bala'a, still within the territory of the Palestinian Authority. The gunmen then executed Dayan and Zeitouny, despite Hussein's supplications that they be spared. The gunmen released Hussein unharmed.

These cold-blooded murders are merely the latest in a series of murders and bombings carried out by Palestinian terrorists. I wish to recall my letter of 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71) which detailed the two recent murders of Ofir Rahum and Ronni Tsalah. These attacks followed a series of bombings in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv and other locations which killed six Israelis and wounded well over 60 and which were detailed in my letters of 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108), and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065). Since the outbreak of violence in late September, more than 40 Israelis have been killed and well over a hundred have been injured.

Israel maintains that overall responsibility for this latest attack as well as for the numerous murders and bombings which have occurred in recent months lies with the Palestinian leadership. The official Palestinian media outlets — television, radio, and newspapers — have, throughout this crisis, incited the public to violence by demonizing and dehumanizing Israelis and Jews and glorifying violence and martyrdom. Convicted Palestinian terrorists have been released from Palestinian Authority prisons, an action which sends a green light to those groups to commence

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attacks on Israelis. The atmosphere of hatred and rejectionism continues to be nurtured and cultivated within the Palestinian educational system.

All of these actions stand in direct contradiction to the fundamental commitment, made by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yassir Arafat in his letter of 9 September 1993, which formed the bedrock for more than seven years of peacemaking. In the letter, Chairman Arafat committed the Palestinian leadership to peacefully resolving the conflict, renounced the use of violence and terrorism, and resolved to ensure the compliance of all elements and personnel under his authority.

The failure of the Palestinian leadership to abide by this commitment has directly contributed to the outbreak of violence and to the proliferation of terrorist attacks in recent months. A final peace settlement can only be sustained by a fundamental commitment to non-violence, and Israel calls upon the Palestinian leadership to reaffirm its allegiance to that principle.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 164, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative